

February 23, 2022

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, ranking members Miner and France and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Michael Eanes, from Litchfield. I am testifying in support of the \$3,6 million included in the governor's budget adjustment bill for the Department of Public Health to fund gun violence prevention programs.

As a lifelong educator I know full well the profound impact effective educational programs can have on youth. Further, as educators we know that positive, rather than punitive, pedagogy is best in bringing about behavioral change among youth and young adults. Clearly, the establishment of this office respects the dignity of youth and their ability to learn and grow in positive ways.

Furthermore, this bill, because of its positive nature, should easily cross party lines. It is about promoting gun safety and awareness, aspects that will appeal to all. There simply is no defense against this very positive move.

I urge your committee and the full legislature to pass this bill and help Connecticut to continue its leadership role in gun safety.

Sincerely,

Michael Eanes

Litchfield